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REVIEWS OF RECENT LITERATURE.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

Man and his Ancestor.—In an admirable little volume of 238 pages Mr. Charles Morris has presented the leading facts that go to show that man has been the outcome of a development from the lower animals. This study in evolution is written in terse and untechnical language. It is addressed to “those who are evolutionists in principle to learn on what grounds their acceptance of this phase of evolution stands, and to aid those who are at sea on the whole subject of man’s origin to reach some fixed conclusion.” The clear and logical interpretation of the facts — themselves established for the most part beyond controversy — certainly justifies the author’s hope “that it may carry some doubters to solid land and teach some believers the fundamental elements of their faith.” In a word, it is a well-written “popular treatise” that deserves to be widely read.

Two views of the origin of man exist : either he came into existence through direct creation, or by development from the lower animals. The former mode is not susceptible of proof, the latter is supported by our author with facts drawn from both biology and anthropology. Some of the principal vestiges of the ancestry of man which he carries in his own body are described. Brief mention is made of the principal discoveries of human remains and articles manufactured by man that have come down to us from prehistoric times. It is to be especially observed that all archæological evidence is cumulative, indicative of constant improvement. The four most marked distinctions between man and the lower animals are considered at some length. In the chapter upon “the conflict with nature” are set forth the prevailing beliefs regarding the time and place of man’s origin, the influence environment has had upon the race, and the traces of ascent discernible in racial differences.

Notes.—In Vol. X, Nos. 4 and 5, of *L’Anthropologie* appears a valuable article upon polymasty and polythely in man. Dr. P. J. Stoyanov presents a number of new cases and reviews the results obtained by other investigators.